

Caulfield, Alfred How

June-July 1916

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July 4th, 1916

Dr. A. F. Caulfield,  
Addington Park War Hospital,  
Croydon, England.

Dear Dr. Caulfield:

In the absence of President Falconer I beg  
to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th of June,  
which I shall bring to the attention of the President on his  
return to Toronto.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.



481  
ADDINGTON PARK WAR HOSPITAL, CROYDON.

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PATHOLOGICAL NOTES.

20th June, 1916.

President R.A. Falconer,  
University of Toronto,

Dear President Falconer,

As it now seems quite possible that Surgeon-General Carlton Jones will keep me at the work on which I have been engaged since the beginning of January, I feel I would like to acquaint you with the details to which I have been assigned since we arrived in England, a little over a year ago.)

( Up till December it had always been understood that I was to be sent to rejoin the University Hospital, as the work previous to this time was, so to speak, limited to some particular point of investigation.

After our arrival in England, I was detailed with Col. Roberts' assent and approval to the National Medical Research Committee for the purpose of working, firstly on an outbreak of typhus in Ireland, and secondly, <sup>on</sup> certain problems in streptococcal septicaemia. At the time of starting the second piece of work, there was no immediate prospect of our hospital being sent to the Front, and such work seemed to offer a better use



# ADDINGTON PARK WAR HOSPITAL, CROYDON.

## PATHOLOGICAL NOTES.

2.

of my time and experience than participation in the routine of the hospital at Shorncliffe, where the more or less temporary conditions under which we were working, gave rather limited possibilities. However, it so happened that when the hospital was ordered to the Front, I was rather deeply involved in the work at Cambridge. I was at once recalled to London and ordered to bring the experiments to a conclusion, as it appeared that it would not take more than 8 - 10 weeks to do this. As a matter of fact, I was on the general medical staff of the hospital, and in no way in charge of any particular part of the work, *so that my continued absence did not seem of much import.*

The special problem I was working on at Cambridge was the production of a more satisfactory antiserum for streptococcal infections, along somewhat analogous lines to those which my departure from Toronto had interrupted. No doubt the ~~slight~~ <sup>that</sup> hope ~~of~~ a successful result might be obtained, together with a consideration of the stage of the ~~experiments~~ and the expense already incurred by the Research Committee werethe chief reasons why I was detained. (Streptococcal infections are, of course, the cause of a great deal of the illness and death following gunshot wounds).



# ADDINGTON PARK WAR HOSPITAL, CROYDON.

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## PATHOLOGICAL NOTES.

### 3.

We had an unfortunate occurrence in the accidental death of one of the horses, from which it was hoped that we would obtain the best antiserum. And this in a way lengthened the time and, as well, prevented us from carrying out fully the research as originally planned. The antiserum which was eventually produced and tried out did not promise any very marked superiority over the products already available, so that I decided it would not, under the circumstances, be wise to attempt the logical completion of the work. Accordingly, I gathered the results together and reported to H.Q. early in December 1915.

After some delay in London, I was requested to get my notes in shape for medical publication, to proceed to Shorncliffe and there await notification of my transport to Salonica. All of which I did, and, as a matter of fact, was to sail in the course of a day or so when I was recalled to London by General Jones. I reported accordingly in London on January 2nd, and was informed that a Committee was under consideration for an investigation of the carrier problem in cerebrospinal fever, typhoid fever, etc., and that Sir Arthur May (Director General Naval Medical Corps) had written Gen.



# ADDINGTON PARK WAR HOSPITAL, CROYDON.

## PATHOLOGICAL NOTES.

4.

Jones asking, if possible, that I be detailed to this work with Dr. E.C. Hort. Apart from the honour of this request, I felt that if I were once more detailed away from No. 4, I would in all probability not again obtain a chance of rejoining.

It was rather a difficult decision for me to make, especially as I felt that University and Hospital trained men might possibly have given better value to the service as a whole, had their Universities supplied Ottawa with a list of the available men and their various special or scientific training, rather than offered fully equipped units. Moreover, it seemed to me if I refused to join in this work (and General Jones was considerate in allowing me to choose) that such a decision would be based upon a sense of loyalty to the University Military Hospital, which possibly might not be to the best interests of the Service or the University.

Fortunately for me, Colonel Adami (McGill) is on the D.M.S. Staff, and was most kind in helping me to decide to take up this work, and not to proceed to Salonica. Previously I had written Col. Roberts regarding my move, but at this time I hesitated to tell either him or you, Sir, of the situation



# ADDINGTON PARK WAR HOSPITAL, CROYDON.

## PATHOLOGICAL NOTES.

5.

until I could see a possible outcome in my new duties.

The work for the past four months was very heavy and particularly tiring, because to fulfil military regulations I was taking my share in the routine of the above hospital and, as well, returning to London to carry on the experimental side at the Lister Institute. As a matter of fact, the official appointment of a joint committee of the Navy and Army fell through although the material for investigation was obtained from both these Services and from the Canadians.

A short time ago we had made sufficient progress so that a presentation of our results to the various <sup>services</sup> ~~serums~~ supplying the material was arranged. This was rather an interesting meeting for me, as <sup>hands Dr. Holt</sup> there were present, ~~besides Dr. Hort~~, Sir Alfred Keough (Director General R.A.M.C.), and Professor Farmer, Admiral Rolleston, Bassett-Smith and Whitehead of the Navy, Surgeon General Carleton Jones and Colonel Adami, C. A.M.C.

The outcome of the meeting has been a personal note of appreciation from Sir Alfred Keough, and more practical arrangements for increased assistance and for carrying on the work, so that it will not be necessary to work at two places as formerly. In accordance with these arrangements I expect to move



# ADDINGTON PARK WAR HOSPITAL, CROYDON.

## PATHOLOGICAL NOTES.

6.

to Croydon, <sup>And</sup> and General Jones has authorised the enlistment in Canada of my old laboratory servant, Greenwood, as a Staff Serjeant.

At this small discussion we only showed experimental evidence that in cerebrospinal fever there is a filter passing agent as well as the meningococcus usually regarded as the sole cause of the disease, and that the evidence that the disease has been produced experimentally in monkeys in view of our results must be reconsidered.

At the present time, I am given to understand that there are over 100,000 men who feel and look perfectly fit, but who are retained for varying periods as possible carriers of disease. Consequently, any means of detecting the dangerous amongst this great number might easily be a most valuable asset towards increasing the <sup>a</sup>men-power of <sup>the</sup>an army.

The work up till lately has been done by Dr. E.C. Hort and myself, and, as I should perhaps have said earlier, is a continuation of some of Dr. Hort's previous experiments.

In many ways I feel that my decision to comply with General Jones' request to take up this work instead of rejoining my Unit has not been altogether unhappy. I hope



# ADDINGTON PARK WAR HOSPITAL, CROYDON.

## PATHOLOGICAL NOTES.

7.

Sir, it meets with your approval and that of Dean Clarke, because while I am not with No. 4 I still regard myself as connected with the University Hospital and in those papers have so published. I should state that I am writing Col. Roberts also, to acquaint him with the results of the work and my movements since January.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

*Alfred H. Caulfield*

P.S. I might add that my earlier paper appears in the *Journal of Pathology & Bacteriology*, while the two conjoint papers with Dr Hart will appear in August in *The British Medical Journal* and *The Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps*.

*A.H.C.*



ADDINGTON PARK WAR HOSPITAL, CROYDON.

PATHOLOGICAL NOTES.

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At 10.15 a.m. on 10th Nov. 1914, a patient was brought to the hospital by ambulance from the front. He was a private in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs, and was wounded by a shell fragment in the right leg. He was found lying on the ground, and was brought to the hospital by ambulance. He was in a state of collapse, and was brought to the hospital by ambulance. He was found lying on the ground, and was brought to the hospital by ambulance. He was in a state of collapse, and was brought to the hospital by ambulance.

1st Nov. 1914.

From the patient.

Left leg.

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